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| EUNEC newsletter April 2014 |
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|  –  [EUNEC at work](http://wieni.createsend.com/t/ViewEmailInIFrame/r/9ADC7F2A7935B40F2540EF23F30FEDED/C67FD2F38AC4859C/%22%20%5Cl%20%22toc_item_0%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  |
|  –  [European heartbeat](http://wieni.createsend.com/t/ViewEmailInIFrame/r/9ADC7F2A7935B40F2540EF23F30FEDED/C67FD2F38AC4859C/%22%20%5Cl%20%22toc_item_1%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  |

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| **EUNEC at work**  |

**[EUNEC statements on early school leaving](http://www.emeel.be/t/r-l-xotyll-l-t/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

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| The conference on 'Early School Leaving' took place on 18-20 November 2013, in cooperatoin with the Lihtuanian Parliament and the European Commission, DG Education and Culture. About 90 participants, coming from 14 different countries, gathered in the Seimas (the Lithuanian Parliament) to discuss strategies and to find ways to reach the target set by the European Commission to reduce the school drop-out rate to 10 % by 2020.EUNEC now published a full report of the conference.  All members agreed on common statements on the topic.EUNEC considers that Early School Leaving can be the ending point of a complex educational, personal and societal development. It is a phenomenon that can be described from different perspectives: from an education perspective, from a labour market perspective, from the perspective of the individual and of the society.High quality and inclusive education is the best prevention. Prevention in the sense of good education is sometimes not sufficient; inclusion and intervention at a very early stage are then needed, thanks to strong guidance and counselling provisions aiming at the whole person of the pupil. Compensatory policies, finally, should aim at different perspectives of education both to get a relevant qualification and to reach a relevant level of competence to funtion at a satisfactory level in social life.How to realize these key policy lines? A broad understanding of quality improvement and school accountability is needed. Teacher professionalization remains a key factor. An effective policy should be based on partnership between schools, parents, pupils and social actors.Tackling early school leaving should be part of a multi-institutional and inter-institutional approach that puts the school in the center of a chain of public and social services. But this collaboration should not hinder the pedagogic and developmental approach of the school: the educational focus is the main one. |   | http://i1.createsend1.com/ei/r/EC/A56/BD1/csimport/IMG_7370.143008.JPGSchool visit at Gabijos Gymnasium in Vilnius |

http://i8.createsend1.com/ti/r/0D/443/ABA/180658/images/divider_grey.gif**[EUNEC participated at the meeting of the European Commission Stakeholder Group on Early School Leaving and on Early Childhood Education and Care](http://www.emeel.be/t/r-l-xotyll-l-i/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

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| On 31 March, the European Commission organized this meeting of the Stakeholder Group on ESL and on ECEC. EUNEC participated in the debate; input was based on the recently agreed statements on 'Early School Leaving'.The aim of this stakeholder group is to complement the discussion among Member Staes and to channel contribution of relevant stakeholder groups into the work of the two Thematic Working Groups, on ECEC and on ESL. This set-up of a parallel structure is regarded as an alternative option to involve also the views of a wide range of non-governemental organizations at EU-level.The Working Groups are now being restructured. There is a new Thematic Working Group on School Policy, with the objective to enhance cooperation in the field of school education. The Working Group will be active from January 2014 until october 2015. In this mandate, the Thematic Working Group will focus on the two most pressing challenges, linked to reducing early school leaving and to improving the quality of teaching by improving teacher education.At the end of the meeting, stakeholders discussed the possible role of stakeholders, envisaging possibilities for involvement in policy design and in dissemination of results of European policy coordination. Stakeholders insisted on the need for back-to-back meetings with the Working Group on School Policy, in order to allow WG members and stakeholder to meet and build their networks.  |

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| **European heartbeat**  |

**[Meeting of the Council for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport, 24 February 2014](http://www.emeel.be/t/r-l-xotyll-l-u/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

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| In support of the 2014 European Semester, EU education ministers adopted conclusions on efficient and innovative education and training to invest in skills. The Commission underlined that investing in education and training is crucial to reduce the skills gap and thereby help to combat unemployment. The Commission expressed concern that in some Member States education budgets are stagnating or even decreasing.Several Member States recalled that teachers remain an essential element for educational success and underlined the importance of teacher training, recalling that digital tools are a means and not an end in themselves.The Council also held a policy debate on skills and employability in the light of the results of PIAAC and PISA. |   | http://i2.createsend1.com/ei/r/EC/A56/BD1/csimport/GreekPresidencylogo.145129.png |

http://i8.createsend1.com/ti/r/0D/443/ABA/180658/images/divider_grey.gif**[Taking stock of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth](http://www.emeel.be/t/r-l-xotyll-l-o/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

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| In this Communication (5 March 2014), the European Commission takes stock of the Europe 2020 strategy. The Communication has two main parts: where does Europe stand four years on? and has the Europe 2020 Strategy worked?The Commission has not drawn policy conclusions nor made policy recommendations. Given the enormity of the change that the EU has undergone as a result of the crisis, the Commission considers it necessary to launch a EU-wide consultation of all stakeholders on the lessons to be learned and on the main factors that should shape the next stages of the EU's post crisis growth strategy.This Communication is the basis for a first discussion at the European Council in March 2014. Following the results of the public consultation, the Commission will make proposals for the pursuit of the Strategy in early 2015. |

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